

City of Cincinnati



801 Plum Street, Suite 349
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Phone (513) 352-4610
Email david.mann@cincinnati-oh.gov
Web www.cincinnati-oh.gov

David S. Mann
Councilmember

June 1, 2021

I move that the fiscal year 2022 budget include \$1 million for preservation of the First Lutheran Church Bell Tower in Over the Rhine immediately adjacent to Washington Park.


Councilmember David Mann

Statement:

The total funding necessary for this project is around \$3 million. About two thirds of the money has been raised, including the participation of over 200 households, several foundations, the First Lutheran Church, and Federal Historic Tax Credits.

As our City continues to enhance OTR, it has an obligation to preserving its priceless heritage. Preserving the Bell Tower of First Lutheran Church is essential to maintain our historical character.

Following a request from First Lutheran Church to assess the Tower, the City Building Department performed an inspection which concluded that the Tower was not safe.

As a result, since November 2020, the Tower has been under an emergency demolition order which drastically limits the ability to raise additional funds for its preservation.

City of Cincinnati



801 Plum Street, Suite 349
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Phone (513) 352-4610
Email david.mann@cincinnati-oh.gov
Web www.cincinnati-oh.gov

David S. Mann
Councilmember

Restoration of this Bell Tower is necessary to not only preserve this important cultural icon, but also to create an accessible building for all members of the community. Loss of the Bell Tower will have a tremendously negative impact on the beauty of Washington Park.